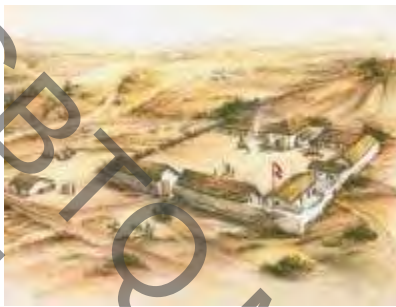




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1700's Presidio's (forts)



1790 Presidio At Tucson



1780's Around Tucson

Even before the arrival of the Spanish Church Padre's And Conquistador's in what is now called Tucson Arizona, evidence has been found of cross-dressing Indians and same sex relationships among some members of various tribes in and around the surrounding Tucson areas. Later during the Spanish Period of Tucson the sexual needs and beliefs of many of the new arrivals took on a more practical approach than back in the large cities and towns of the time they had left behind.

During that period of the latter 1700's around the Tucson Presidio (fort) the population hovered around fifty (50) or less residents both inside the fort and around the outside as a merchant-supply class formed to help supply the needs of the fort. By 1799 the population of Tucson hovered around 125 residents made up predominately of hardy no-nonsense soldiers, citizens, merchants, horse and cattle thieves, drifters, tradesman, desperados, gamblers, fortune hunters, miners, and those seeking adventure in the new Spanish Province.

In a few of the adobe structures and jacals it was just a matter of time until small taverns (bars) began opening up In Tucson. At this same time, far back to the east in the newly settled American Colonies of England, laws were already being enforced against same sex acts. In 1624, a Ship's Master named **Richard Cornish** was executed in Virginia after a sailor accused him of homosexual activity. In 1636, **John Cotton**, a leading Puritan minister who strongly believed that church government always superseded all other governments, denounced homoerotic connections of any kind.

Several Sodomy charges were prosecuted in the American Colonies from 1640 to 1642. In Massachusetts, the **Reverend Thomas Shepard**, previously an assistant school master turned fiery **Calvinist** leaning **Puritan** minister, concluded that sodomy is in the heart of every person, and it is necessary that it be weeded out. Not far away in the Plymouth Colony in 1648, **Sara Norman** and **Mary Hammon** were arrested for sharing a bed in the sexual sense. Eight years later, Lesbianism was added to the list of sodomy statutes that were punishable by death.

In 1682-1683, **William Penn**'s Colony lessened the offense of same sex acts or relationships to a misdemeanor, unless it involved Blacks, in which case capital punishment was reintroduced in 1700 to punish those relationships. During the years between 1696-1698, Massachusetts outlawed sodomy as *Contrary To The Very Light of Nature*.

The 1700's in Tucson brought Royal Spanish Soldiers who had grown up with ominous changes that were coming to some parts of Europe at the time for Gay and Bisexual men. While those of means and or connections in Europe had previously been able to avoid most of the public abuse and severe penalties given to convicted Sodomites of the lower class, in the 1700's only extreme wealth could save them from public censure.

Groups dedicated to the preservation of Puritanical type morals would often arrest openly Gay men through spying and entrapment. This, then forced Gays and Cross Dressers of both genders, and Lesbians in Europe to often go underground and resort to more discreet locations for their encounters. The people of means usually just resigned themselves to keeping to the privacy of their homes, engaging in their often well-known as well as highly complex relationships just among themselves.

Working-class Gay men had **Molly Houses** as the people in England called them, which were places where Gay men could meet to not only engage in sex, but to Cross-Dress in a relatively safe place with other like-minded companions. The most well-known of these houses was **Margaret "Mother" Clap's** in London, which was raided in 1726 by the **Society of Reformation of Manners**. Despite persecution, the Molly Houses continued their operations well into the 1800's. Other variations of those safe places could be found out in the new Sonoran Province including the Tucson Presidio Area of the later 1700's.



1766 Spanish Military Explores Tucson



1790's Tucson Tavern



A Jacal Style Residence



San Cosme de Tucson
Convent Mission



1775 Spanish Military Inspector General
Hugo O'Conor (Hugh Oconór)



1775 Presidio San Augustine del Tucson
(Fort Tucson) Charter Declaration
signed by Hugo O'Conor

Out in the colonies of New Spain in the Sonoran Province such as the fort The Presidio San Augustin del Tucson and the very small settlement of rock jacals and adobes that built up in areas around it, far from the sometimes stifling social pressures, the sheer number of men working and living close together and lack of women except for those very few that were wealthy enough at first to bring them from Spain, lead to changes in their sexual behavior and intimate relationships.

Soldiers often alone for days or weeks out on patrols against hostile Indians, or living together in small barracks at the presidio (fort) or other merchants, tradesmen, and others in their very small simple adobe or rock, and mesquite structures (called jacals) often formed Same Sex Relationships both openly and in secret. In Tucson on March 3, 1757 the San Cosme de Tucson ss Convent Mission (a.k.a. San Agustín Mission) (see photo) was established on the west bank of the Santa Cruz River near what would years later become Congress Street in the Menlo Park area, by Jesuit Father Bernard Middendorf.

The military of Spain in the 1600's and 1700's was not made up of exclusively Spanish born soldiers and officers. Due to the almost constant wars in most of Europe, along with the resulting loss of their homelands and often families to the victors, many of the soldiers and officers of the time period from all over Europe had joined and blended in with the required discipline and customs of the Royal Spanish Army with some eventually rising to very high military positions due to their own individual skill and bravery in battle and otherwise.



1780 Interior Rendering Of
A 'Jacal' Residence



1600-1700's View Of
The Known World



1700's Spanish Coins
Found In Tucson



*1798 Former Travelers Inn & Tavern
Tucson*



*1682-1798 Spanish Journals
Found In Tucson*

Setback by an injury while carrying out his duties before reaching Tucson near the end of his illustrious career in the Royal Spanish Army with the rank of Inspector General of All of New Spain, was himself a former 16 year old Irish foot soldier, who had been involved in an Irish rebellion against the English in 1750. Hugo narrowly escaped with his life with the help of his cousin Captain Alexander (a.k.a. Alejandro) O' Reilly of the Royal Spanish Army who was able to get the young Hugo a commission as a cadet in Madrid, Spain. By 1763 at the age of 29 Hugo O' Conór was assigned to take back Cuba from the English and **had risen to the rank of Captain.**

By 1765 he had been promoted to Major. The dashing red haired Hugo was a very highly devoted Irish Catholic who was never known to miss a Sunday Mass. Curiously, Hugo O' Conór, who was initially assigned for 2 years until 1777 to locate a strategic building site and lay out the forts boundaries in what would later become Tucson, was never married. No less equally interesting, was that during Hugo's time assigned in what is now called Texas, then Spanish Major Hugo O' Conór had personally laid the foundation stone of a small more permanent mission church made with a stone foundation unlike the church buildings before that had crumbled within the fort located there near a river. Many years later that little mission church would be called..... The Alamo!

Meanwhile, almost two thousand miles to the east in the month of March 1778, Continental Army Officer Lieutenant Gotthold Frederick Enslin was facing a sentence of death by hanging but was instead spared by General George Washington to be drummed out of the army being the first soldier ever discharged from the United States Military (at that time, called the Continental Army) for Sodomy, (a.k.a. being Gay) in the Spring of that year in 1778.

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